

I. HEADING

Date: July 17, 1991
From: Thor Cutler, OSC
To: Stephen Luftig, Director, ERD; Terry Eby, Wash.DC
James Everts, Chief, Region X, SRIS

Subject: Auburn Ink Site

II. BACKGROUND

Site No: L4
D.O. No: 0012-10-005
Response Authority: CERCLA
NPL Status: Non-NPL
Category: Time Critical

III. INCIDENT INFORMATION

A. Site Description

The site is located at 222 N.W. "A" street, Auburn, King County, Washington. 98002. The 0.5 acre site includes a 15,000 square foot warehouse and parking lot. The site is located across from the Auburn post office and a block from a hospital.

B. Release Incident

A location of drums containing volatile organics was brought to the OSC's attention during an EPA joint civil and criminal investigation. A total of nine drums were discovered at the downtown Auburn location, and based on a EPA TAT site assessments, three (3) drums contained high concentrations of volatiles.

C. Threat

The immediate threat is posed by the drums whose contents include xylene (to 27.5 percent), ethyl-benzene (to 10.5 percent), and other volatile and semi-volatile compounds. Fire and explosion, flashback, and toxic fumes are the most significant threats. The site is in a densely populated area.

IV. ACTIONS TO DATE

A. State and Local

The Washington State Department of Ecology, City of Auburn Police, and Fire have been notified. ATSDR was notified and provided technical support.

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B. Response Information

Air plume models of the drums were developed and studied. Contingencies were developed in case of a spill. The EPA/ERCS/TAT/PST mobilized to the site. Intrinsically safe instruments were used in the operation including PID, explosimeter, camera and radios. All operations were done in level B, as known IDLH is under 2000 ppm. Analyses show total xylenes exceed 270,000 mg/l and ethyl-benzene exceeds 105,000 mg/l in sample analyses. The samples for disposal are collected and the drums are overpacked labeled and staged in a cool and secure location onsite. Drums are sealed to mitigate fire/explosion potential. The flammable range is one to six percent. We have demobed and await acceptance to a Seattle fuel recovery facility for incineration.

C. Next Steps

Approval from the disposal facility is sought, samples are hand carried. The overpacks will be transported and recycled for fuel. We expect acceptance (ASAP) within a week.

D. Issues and Problems

If opened, the fumes may exceed IDLH, exceed LEL, and flashback. The Auburn Fire Department has been informed of activities regarding this site and it is recommended to keep them in the loop.

V. COST INFORMATION

<u>A. Extramural Costs</u>	<u>Curr't Ceiling</u>	<u>Cost/Date</u>
ERCS	\$5,000.00	TRA
TAT/USCG	\$600.00	
15% contingency	\$790.00	
 <u>B. Intramural Costs</u>		
Direct	\$400.00	
Indirect	\$400.00	
10% Project Contingency	\$719.00	
 <u>C. Total Project Ceiling</u>	 \$7,909.00	